



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1996

STATE CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

By James Hudler
1996 LPM Campaign Chair

Emily Salvette, when she was elected LPM State Chair last Spring, appointed me 1996 State Campaign Chair, citing my years of experience in LP elections. It is now 1996 and it is time for me--for all of us--to get busy.

The most important goal of the LPM this year is to retain our Michigan Ballot status.. In order for us to keep our place on the ballot in future elections, we must garner a sufficient number of votes state-wide for our top-of-the-ballot candidate. This year that will be our Presidential candidate. We need to shoot for 30,000 votes.

To do this, we need, as I see it, to establish a State Presidential Campaign Team, which would:

1. Set up communication links with each of the LP Presidential candidate hopefuls.
2. Appoint a coordinator or chief for itself.
3. Set up county contacts for literature distribution and for advertising (TV, radio and newspaper.)
4. Conduct monthly polls of the electorate beginning May, 1996.
5. Do a postcard mailing similar to the one done in 1980. In that year, the LPM was required by the state government to obtain 1% of the total vote in the race for Secretary

of State (the top of the ticket that time) in the August, 1980 primary, in order to qualify our whole slate of candidates for the November general election. (Voters were required to vote for a party only in the primary.) One of our tactics to accomplish this formidable task was a mail-in postcard campaign. Post-paid postcards were mailed to LPM members and interested people. On the postcard was the statement, "I will vote for the Libertarian Party in the August primary" with yes/no check boxes. Those who checked "yes" were phoned just prior to the primary in a phone bank to get out the vote. I have proposed to the LPM Executive Committee that we institute a similar project for our November, 1996, Presidential campaign. The postcard would say, "I will vote for Mr./Ms. Liberty for President in order to keep the LPM on the ballot." I have proposed that each LPM member be sent at least 30 postcards to be distributed by the member to friends and relatives. The strategy of this project is to (1) make a direct appeal to the libertarian electorate to help keep the Party on the ballot, (2) make a direct appeal to the liberty sympathizers to get out the vote for the LPM and (3) further promote the Party on a grass roots level.

I plan to contact all the active county groups to encourage support and to solicit individuals who are interested in running for office in local or statewide elections. I could use help.

My suggestions for local candidates are: (1) Run for the lowest partisan office possible, such as city council, and (2) go door-to-door to meet the voters. There's no substitute for this.

DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Emily Salvette	313-747-8129
Vice Chair	Mark Owen	517-725-7101
Secretary	Dan Marsh	616-456-9472
Treasurer	Dave Nagy	
At-large	Ben Bachrach	

Scott Beavers
Jon Coon
Keith Edwards
James Hudler

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Glenn Barr
Bill Hall
Tim O'Brien

Editor	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Inquiries	Marnie Edwards	
Membership	Ben Bachrach	
Speakers	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Campaign Coordinator & Campus Organizing	James Hudler	313-475-9792

Affiliates Coordinator

	Mark Owen	517-725-7101
--	-----------	--------------

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Allegan Co.	Rick Dutkiewicz	616-673-5503
Berrien Co.	Scott Beavers	616-944-1852
Branch CO.	Paul Pann	517-279-9860
Ionia Co.	Dick Whitelock	616-527-9263
Isabella Co.	John Tuttle	517-866-2365
Kalamazoo	Doug Houts	616-342-2330
Lapeer-Genesee	John Hertrich	810-724-2038
Lansing area	Mike Brinkman	517-337-8044
Livingston	Doug MacDonald	810-231-3137
Macomb Co.	Stacy Van Oast	810-784-8783
Midland-Bay-Saginaw	Scott Ecker	517-585-3634
Monroe Co.	Don Atkinson	313-241-7038
Oakland Co.	Dave Armstrong	810-391-4329
Ottawa Co.	Jeff Terhaar	616-847-0581
St. Clair	Ed DeVoogt	810-985-4943
South-Central (Jackson-Hillsdale-Lenawee)	Nick Bennett	517-529-4960
Traverse Bay	Richard Ask	616-941-1306
Van Buren Co.	Walt DeVisser	616-427-7543
Washtenaw Co.	James Hudler	313-475-9792
Wayne Co.	Joann Karpinski	313-925-6917
Western MI	Glenn Barr	616-784-2613
Upper Penins.	Jack Mchugh	906-428-4710
Univ. of MI	Martin Howrylak	810-643-6653
Metro Det Lib	Tim O'Brien	313-562-5778

LOCAL MEETINGS

The following local libertarian groups meet regularly. Most are dinner meetings. Your contact is listed in the Directory.

Washtenaw Co. meets at Dominick's, 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor, every Thursday, dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30. Some meetings with major speakers at U-M Union.

LP of Mid-Michigan (Lansing area) meets at Sneeker's Restaurant, 600 Homer, Lansing, on the second Thursday of the month.

Western MI LP (Grand Rapids area) meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the basement of Pizza Hut at 44th & Kalamazoo Streets, Kentwood.

Kalamazoo-Calhoun LP meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster in Portage.

Lapeer Co. LP meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Marguerite de Angeli Library in Lapeer at 7:30 PM. Please do not park in the library parking lot.

Livingston Co. LP meets on the second Monday of the month at Mexican Jones Restaurant, 675 Grand River, Brighton, at 6:30.

Macomb Co. meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fire Escape Restaurant, 61 N. Walnut, Mt. Clemens. Dinner at 6:00.

Oakland Co. meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Oakland Co. Commission Auditorium in Pontiac.

Ottawa Co. meets the second Friday of the month at 7:30 at the China Garden Restaurant, 133 Washington, Grand Haven.

Wayne Co. LP meets on the first Tuesday of the month at La Trattoria Restaurant, 13736 Michigan Ave., near Schaefer in Dearborn.

Metro Detroit Libertarians is a supper club with a featured speaker and not a part of the LPM. It meets on the fourth Monday. Call Tim O'Brien for the location which varies.

FROM THE CHAIR

By Emily Salvette

Welcome to our newest affiliate, the Ionia County Libertarian Party. Its beginning demonstrates an important strategy for us.

Former LPM Chair Dick Whitelock saw people become dissatisfied with local government as townships in Ionia began enforcing a new legislative fad, blight ordinances. These ordinances force property owners to keep their yards looking neat; neatness, of course, is defined by the local politicians. Enforcement included ordering one man to get rid of his vacation motorhome, in another case, telling a family to get rid of the barrels a young horse-back rider used to school her 4-H project. County citizens formed a group to fight these ordinances.

Whitelock went to the group and explained that the Libertarian Party shared their views on private property rights and supported their efforts. He encouraged them to come to an organizing meeting and, from that, the Ionia County Libertarian Party was born.

This strategy--recruiting freedom-oriented single-issue activists to the LP--can benefit both the group members and us. Getting elected to office and changing statist laws is the best way to change our society. For instance, a handful of people elected to township boards in Ionia County could overturn these ridiculous blight ordinances. Unfortunately, people who are committed to causes, especially causes labelled "extremist" by the political establishment such as property rights, separation of school and state, or the Second Amendment, aren't welcomed by the two major parties. So, how can the Ionia freedom fighters get into office to reform government? By running as Libertarian Party candidates.

Often, the Party is exhorted to "get on an issue." Then we debate how much of our limited resources to spend on lobbying, running petition drives or taking out ads. But

I think that our job as the Libertarian Party of Michigan is to run candidates. For almost every libertarian issue there are single-issue groups already in place: NORML and CAALM on the drug issue, ABATE and BRAG on the motorcycle helmet issue, Brass Roots and GOA on the gun rights issue, to name a few. Such groups do a good job rallying volunteers, educating the public and lobbying legislators. Our job should be to provide a mechanism for turning committed activists into candidates and, ultimately, elected officials.

To build the LPM, we should introduce ourselves to freedom-oriented groups and tell them about our common ground. We should sell the opportunity for their members to run as Libertarian candidates. We can educate these new recruits on the rest of our platform, which they will probably embrace with enthusiasm, at local and state meetings. Local affiliates can take the lead by inviting representatives of freedom-oriented groups to speak at meetings, or by sending LPM representatives to their meetings. LPM Convention Chair Stacy Van Oast is doing something similar at the state level by inviting single-issue groups to participate in a Liberty Fair at the upcoming State Convention.

People are active in single-issue groups because they are looking for more freedom. We are looking for candidates who will deliver more freedom as elected officials. If we can get together, it looks like a mutually beneficial arrangement to me.

Bikers Rights**BRAG****Action Group**

P.O. Box 98 • Fenton, MI 48430

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 8. Happy Belated Birthday Party for Ayn Rand at the One-Eyed Moose, 207 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, 6:30 PM.

Washtenaw will meet at the One-Eyed Moose through March 7, then return to Dominicks as of March 14.

Sunday, February 11. Libertarian Advisory Council meeting and state platform discussion. We will also select our representative to the National Platform Committee. Sneekers Restaurant, 600 Homer, Lansing, at 1:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16. Sam Adams Fundraising Dinner for LP Washtenaw. See Page 5.

Sunday, March 17. Executive Committee meets at Dominick's, 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor.

Friday, April 19-Sunday, April 21, 1996. Nominating Convention of the LPM at the Georgian Inn, Gratiot at 13 Mile Rd., in Roseville. Macomb LP is the host with the theme, Divorcing Government; the Rational Revolution. There will be a Liberty Fair with many vendors, campaign training, nominations for public offices, election of delegates to the National Convention, and election of LPM officers for 1996-97. Friday night entertainment will be provided by Wayne County LP, featuring music by the O'Brien Brothers, good conversation and some surprises.

Friday, April 26-Sunday April 28, 1996. Convention of the Libertarian Party of Ohio at the Holiday Inn-North in Sharonville, just north of Cincinnati. Call 800-669-6542 for details.

Wednesday, July 3-Sunday, July 7, 1996. National Convention of the Libertarian Party at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, D.C., root of all evil. Nominations for President and Vice President, approval of the National Platform, many interesting speeches including our own Jon Coon at the July 6 breakfast event. Many famous libertarians will be there. Ceremony on July 3

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

The Michigan Libertarian is published bi-monthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 11700 Merriman Rd., Livonia, MI 48150. Scheduled publication is January, March, May, July, September and November.

All material contained herein represents the opinion of the author and is not necessarily the position of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted by the 30th of the month preceding publication. Text should be typewritten and double-spaced. Unsigned material will not be used. Submissions may be edited.

Advertising is available at \$5.00 per column inch or fraction thereof for camera ready copy.

Editor: Keith Edwards
28960 Jane
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

AFFILIATE NEWS SECTION

Submissions to the affiliate news section of the Michigan Libertarian should be sent to:

Brett Cashman
1931 Andover
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
313-481-1354 bjcash@aol.com

evening at the Jefferson Memorial. Fireworks program on July 4 with music by Erich Kunzel of the Cincinnati Pops. Many vendors will have libertarian books and memorabilia. Election of National LP officers. This is always an inspiring and fun week. Get pumped up for the rest of the year!

November 5, 1996. Election Day. This could be the best one yet for libertarianism! But YOU will have to help.

NEWS BRIEFS

GENESEE, LAPEER MERGE. Two of our smaller local LPM groups have joined hands to form an organization with greater depth of resources. This fits the pattern of several other multi-county groups. As they grow, they may spin off one county or another. Those living in Genesee and Lapeer counties may call John Hertrich at (810) 795-3820 to inquire about their activities.

MICHIGAN DELEGATE COUNT. The unofficial membership of Michiganians in the national Libertarian Party stands at 669, an all-time high. Delegates to the National LP Convention are apportioned on the basis of one delegate per 20 members or fraction thereof, so we should have 34 delegates at the 1996 Convention in July, fourth largest among the states. In population, Michigan ranks only eighth. Thanks to all those who worked to boost our membership in 1995.

TO VOTE AT THE LPMCONVENTION in April, new members must have joined the Party 30 days prior to the Convention. This does not apply to renewals.

THE SECOND ANNUAL
SAM ADAMS DINNER

to benefit the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County

Saturday, March 16, 1996
The James Breakey Manor
125 North Huron, Ypsilanti

5:00 Social Hour
6:00 Buffet Dinner
7:30 Program

special guest speaker:
CARL MARLINGA
Macomb County Prosecutor

\$ 27.40 / person by March 6
(ten cents for every year since Sam Adams's birth)
\$ 40.00 / person after March 6

BECOME A LIBERTARIAN LEADER

At the state convention in April, you will have the opportunity to help lead the Libertarian Party of Michigan during this important election year. All state party executive committee offices are up for election:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Five At-Large Directors

In addition, you can volunteer to serve on a standing committee:

- Campaign
- Finance
- Membership
- Newsletter
- State Convention
- State Headquarters

If you would like to help, please contact Emily Salvette at (313) 747-8129 or SALVETTE@AOL.COM

The Historic Breakey Manor

The history of The James Breakey Manor dates back to 1830. This exquisite example of Greek Revival architecture has been skillfully preserved and stands as one of Ypsilanti's notable homes. The traditionally unique decor abounds with fireplaces, high ceilings, french doors and windows, and much of the original woodwork. Please join us in this historic setting, where we will celebrate America's heritage of Liberty and our future of Freedom.

Colonial costumes encouraged *Please consent to join us*
Last year's event sold out so make your reservations early.
Questions? Alan Robertson (313) 741-9069

----- detach and return by March 6 -----

Yes, please make my reservation for the March 16 Sam Adams Dinner!

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Number attending _____ @ \$27.40 (\$40 after 3/6) Total enclosed \$ _____



Affiliate Report

Libertarian Party of Michigan is on the Internet !!

by Mark Heil

Do you want to know if there's a Libertarian running for office in your area? Are you dying to attend the next Libertarian Advisory Council meeting but you lost your last newsletter and don't know where it is? Well, your problems are solved! This and other up to date information about the Libertarian Party of Michigan can now be found at our new site on the internet's World Wide Web. Just set your Web browser to our address at: "http://www.coast.net/~lpm/" (without the quotes) for access.

Currently, we have officer and staff directories, the LPM bylaws, a calendar of events and lists of candidates and Libertarian officeholders and information about the upcoming State Convention available. Each local affiliate party also has a home page that lists when and where they meet and who to contact for information about the local group.

The LPM home page also has links to the web sites of neighboring state parties and the National LP's web site. There's even a link to an online version of "The World's Smallest Political Quiz! So the next time you're surfing the internet, stop in and take a look around. This is also a great place to send anyone who may be interested in the LP and where they can learn about libertarianism at their leisure.

Those of you who would like to post additional information about your local affiliate group on our web site can start by reading the affiliate assistance page

at:
<http://www.coast.net/~lpm/affiliate.html>

You can send information (preferably in electronic form) to:

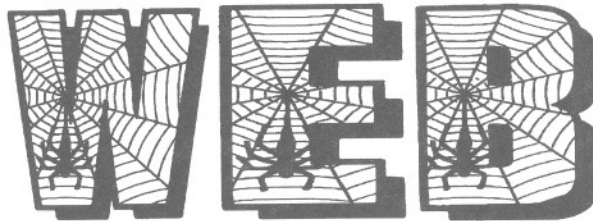
Mark Heil, 26450 Crocker #1013, Harrison Twp., MI 48045-2496 (or via e-mail to 72113.1626@compuserve.com).

Examples of information that should be posted are bylaws, calendar of events, local candidates for office, officer directories, newsletters, etc. For an example of local affiliate information, read the Libertarian Party of Macomb County home page at:
"http://www.coast.net/~lpm/lmchome.html".

Server space for our web site was generously provided by Coast to Coast Telecommunications. If you currently do not have internet access and would like to, call Coast to Coast at (800) 900-9960. Also, most of the major online service providers such as Compuserve, America Online and Prodigy all offer internet web access.

(Ed. note: A special thanks to Mark for the great job he's doing getting the LPM on line!)

LPM
on
the



More information on
the Info
Superhighway

- LP World Wide Web <http://www.lp.org/lp/>
- Online LP News <http://www.lp.org/lp/lpn/>
- LP Platform <http://www.lp.org/lp/platform>
- Schiff for President.
<http://www.webpub.com/schiff>
- Rick Tompkins, Libertarian for President.
<http://www.nguworld.com/rick96/>
- Harry Browne for President.
<http://www.HarryBrowne96.org>
- Jo Jorgensen, Libertarian for Vice President
WWW:<http://ares.ath.com/~dirasian/jo/joma>
in.html

GUN BILL DEFEATED

by Brett Cashman

Michigan House Bill 4720, commonly referred to as the Citizens Self Defense Act was defeated. The bill would have required the State of Michigan to issue Concealed Carry Permits to all adult citizens of the State of Michigan that have undergone handgun training and are not convicted criminals or insane. This bill would have replaced the current system of local gun boards that determine whether a citizen has a "need" to carry a concealed weapon. That "need" is usually based on how well you know the local bureaucrats that sit on the gun board.

The bill had been in a sub-committee of the House Judiciary Committee. The sub-committee held two days of hearings on Dec. 4th and 5th. Over two hundred pro-gun people showed up to speak in favor of the bill. Several anti-gun speakers also testified.

Special interest groups such as the NRA and GOA brought speakers in support of the bill. Groups such as Handgun Control Inc. and the American Medical Association trotted out the usual well paid suspects from out-of-town to give learned testimony on why Michigander s can't be trusted with a basic Constitutional right. Despite widespread testimony in support of the bill the full committee voted against sending it to the House floor for a vote.

The bill's sponsor Rep. Cropsey managed to get a floor vote on a discharge petition. A discharge petition is a vote of the full House on whether a bill should be brought out of committee. This vote then becomes a referendum on whether the bill should be passed. The House voted not to bring the bill out of committee by eleven votes. Hence the bill died.

The vote was not completely surprising since polls have been released that show most people are not in favor of liberalizing the CCW permit requirements. Politicians may feel that the risks of voting "no" outweigh the risks of voting "yes." Libertarians and other gun groups feel differently and are encouraged by Rep. Cropsey's office to work for passage in the next legislative session.

IONIA COUNTY LIBERTARIANS ELECT OFFICERS

(Ionia) At a special meeting on December 20, 1995, the Ionia County Libertarian Party was formed and officers were elected.

Elected as At-Large members were Jerry White, Stephen Thomas and Clifford Lazarus, all of Ionia. Tom Groom of Palo was elected Treasurer, Fred Kutzt of Ionia, Secretary, Robert White of Ionia was elected Vice-Chair, and Richard Whitelock will serve as Chair.

In traditional Libertarian balloting, all candidates received opposition from "None of the Above." However, all candidates were elected unanimously since NOTA received no votes.

The newly elected board discussed and adopted bylaws. The ICLP will apply to the Libertarian Party of Michigan for affiliate party status as a local organization. (The LEC will vote to recognize the ICLP at its January 21 meeting).

The ICLP will hold regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Ionia County Courthouse (third floor), located on Main Street in downtown Ionia. All meetings will be open to the public and will feature a discussion forum on a particular issue.

Anyone interested in more information can call Dick Whitelock at (616) 527-9263.



STATE

LPM Vice Chair Suggests Platform Strategy

by Mark Owen

The Libertarian Party of Michigan needs a strong coherent platform for the 1996 campaign season. This will greatly aid our candidates in presenting a consistent unified message. What we are looking for are some issues that can be presented quickly and effectively by our candidates and party officials that will sway public opinion.

Welfare reform is one area that is hot this year and an important area for the LPM to provide our alternative. There are different routes that can be taken toward welfare privatization, so we need to determine which route is not only the most effective economically, but also probably more important politically. A position that states we should just eliminate welfare tomorrow is not very helpful. Welfare privatization will probably be one of our platform issues, but we need to work out the details.

One issue that practically begs us to pick it up is the recently defeated concealed weapons permit legislation. If we simply pick up what the Republicans defeated, it will give us a strong issue. A lot of angry people may give us a closer look if we adopt this issue into our platform.

A great number of other issues obviously also exist: School choice/ privatization, tax reform, legal reform, etc.. What we need are issues presented in such a way that they will appeal to the general public. A platform position that states we should privatize all Michigan roads is not only worthless, but is counterproductive, making us appear less serious. If we can come up with an effective platform, it will greatly aid us in getting our message across by November.

NATIONAL

Get U.S. Troops Out of Bosnia, Demands Libertarian Party

from LP Press Release.

WASHINGTON, DC -- The United States is lurching into another pointless, unnecessary, and bloody military fiasco in Bosnia, warned the Libertarian Party.

So the Libertarian National Committee this week voted to condemn the United States' military intervention in that troubled region -- and demanded an immediate withdrawal of American troops. "The war in Bosnia isn't worth a single American life," said Libertarian Party National Chair Steve Dasbach.

"The United States is not a global empire, or policemen of the world. The vital interests of the United States -- namely, our Constitutional liberties, our national independence, and our security from invasion -- are not at stake in Bosnia," said Dasbach. "And the American people do not wish to send 20,000 troops into the mountains of the Balkans, whether to slay Bosnian Serbs or rebuild the Bosnian government."

The Libertarian National Committee unanimously passed a resolution this week at their quarterly meeting in Washington, DC. urging "immediate U.S. military withdrawal and a rededication to a foreign policy of no foreign wars." The resolution also blasted America's "foreign policy elites," who seem interested in sustaining "an outmoded but still entangling NATO alliance" and projecting an image of the U.S. as a "muscular, internationally active" power.

"This is the third time in three years American troops have been sent into a foreign country," said Dasbach. "First Somalia, then Haiti, now Bosnia. As our real enemies around the globe vanish, why is America getting involved in more and more foreign military conflicts? It must stop."

Michigan Senate Passes Even More Laws



The Michigan State Legislature concluded one of the busiest legislative years ever by passing a flurry of laws on the last day of session. Among the highlights (or lowlights, depending on your point of view) the Republican controlled legislature passed bills that will:

- Authorize a one-time \$113 million state income tax refund. Required by the constitution because the state stole too much last year. The average taxpayer will save about \$25 through a 2% reduction on next years income tax payment.
- Let the state pursue a contract that would enter Michigan in a multi-state lottery drawing.
- Raise the freeway speed limit to 70 mph, excluding some urban areas.
- Give final approval to an overhaul of the Single Business Tax. (Grant tax breaks to Michigan businesses and increase tax rates on out-of-state businesses.)
- Approved a revamped state school code that gives local districts new freedoms to make changes in their schools.
- Passed legislation that allows the state's eight horse racing tracks to beam in races from around the country for Michigan bettors to wager on.
- Approved creation of four new political action committees, to be controlled by the legislative leaders of the two major parties, which will replace the dozens of existing campaign committees.

The legislation will be heaped upon other bills already passed including a major welfare rewrite, a new product liability law, auto insurance revisions, a rewrite of the state mental health code, and a removal of a cap on interest rates.

LP Presidential Candidates Qualify For Primaries

As the contest for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination heads for its July showdown, the party has earned the right to hold presidential primaries in a record number of states.

The Libertarian Party can now hold primaries in 13 states -- "more presidential primaries than any other 3rd party in U.S. history," noted Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News.

The party has qualified in Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

All four of the active candidates for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination have qualified to be on the primary ballot in California: Harry Browne, Doug Ohmen, Irwin Schiff, and Rick Tompkins.

The Libertarian Party will select a presidential candidate at its national convention in Washington, DC from July 3-7, 1996. None of the primaries will be binding on the delegates, but could serve as an important test of the candidates' support and organization.

National Libertarian Party Membership Statistics

Statistics as of 29 December 1995 Total dues-paying members in areas with affiliate parties: 13449

Overall density: 51.7 members/million population

Change since	Growth	%Growth	Growth/pop
(28Feb93)	1845	15.9	7.1
(31Aug93)	2739	25.6	10.5
(31Dec94)	2808	26.4	10.8

Highest Ranking States (growth since 28 Feb. 1993)

Number Density #Growth %Growth Growth/pop

CA 2204	NH 194.4	PA272	WV169.2	DC 70.2
PA 931	DC 136.8	MI197	DC105.3	NV 41.9
TX 741	CO 117.1	WA183	MT 85.0	WA 34.3
MI 669	NV 105.0	OH105	RI 68.2	DE 26.9
NY 548	ME 94.4	CO 97	NV 66.3	CO 26.5
FL 533	AK 94.1	MD 90	ND 62.5	WV 24.1
IL 484	WA 90.6	VA 87	WA 60.8	PA 22.6
WA 484	AZ 78.3	GA 73	DE 52.8	MI 20.7
NJ 481	DE 77.9	AZ 65	AR 47.5	NH 20.2
OH 453	PA 77.2	NV 61	TN 46.5	MT 19.9
CO 428	MD 73.5	WI 60	MI 41.7	WY 18.9
VA 384	MI 70.5	TN 59	PA 41.3	MD 18.0

Government Must End Attacks On Electronic Privacy Says Libertarian Party

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Justice Dept.'s decision not to prosecute Philip R. Zimmermann for violating encryption law is a victory for the First Amendment -- but unfortunately won't end the government's attack on electronic privacy, the Libertarian Party warned today.

"The battle for free speech and privacy still rages on the electronic frontier," said Steve Dasbach, Chairman of the Libertarian Party.

"One hero -- Phil Zimmermann -- won a great personal victory. But government laws restricting cryptography still threaten the privacy and security of everyone on the Internet. As long as the government has the power to obstruct encryption use, the electronic privacy of all American citizens will be in danger," said Dasbach.

After a three-year investigation, the Justice Department announced late last week that it would not prosecute Zimmermann, a software developer, for posting a cryptography program to the Internet in 1991.

Zimmermann's program -- entitled Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) -- was an immediate hit, gaining worldwide popularity as "encryption for the masses." It was among the first programs to give ordinary computer users the power to protect sensitive communications.

PGP and similar encryption software turns electronically transmitted information -- such as personal e-mail -- into undecipherable gibberish. Messages can then be securely sent across networks, using "keys" that are almost impossible to crack.

Under current federal law, complex encryption software such as PGP is considered a "munition," and is restricted under the International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Exporting such software requires a

license from the government.

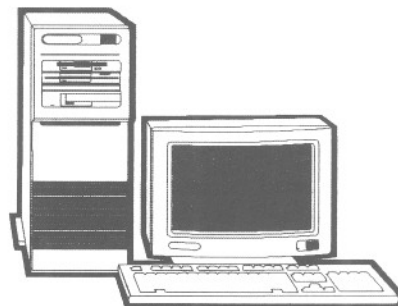
"Unfortunately, the government's decision to drop the Zimmermann case leaves unanswered the question of whether posting such materials to the Internet constitutes a violation of ITAR export regulations," said Dasbach.

"And the laws that were used to harass Zimmermann were not changed. So, developers of cryptographic programs still run the risk of investigation, prosecution, and jail time. For Americans working to protect their electronic privacy, the threat remains."

"The government justifies such restrictions by saying that law-enforcement agencies would be hindered in their efforts to stop terrorists, spies, drug-dealers, and pornographers without them," noted Dasbach.

"These regulations do nothing of the sort, since strong encryption technology is freely available worldwide. All these laws do is put U.S. software companies at a competitive disadvantage, and chip away at the First Amendment's protection -- which apply even to 21st century communications. The Justice Department needs to remember that before they launch their next investigation."

The Libertarian Party platform includes a forceful statement in support of electronic privacy: "We oppose all regulations of civilian research on encryption methods. We also oppose government classification of such research, or requirements that deciphering methods be disclosed to the government."



INSTITUTING REFORMS - NEW ZEALAND STYLE

Libertarians are always being challenged to defend our radical proposals by the argument that changes come slowly, people won't accept radical change, move gradually, don't scare people, etc. Some libertarians fall for this line and begin to water down our positions.

The December, 1995, issue of Freedom Network News contains an article by Ken Schoolland on the reversal of economic policy from socialism to free enterprise in New Zealand that bears on this issue.

Schoolland quotes from Roger Douglas, Minister of Finance in New Zealand from 1984 (an ironic date at that!) to 1988 on how that government privatized and deregulated the economy. Douglas stressed four points:

1. "Avoid compromise. Whenever we compromised the problem remained." Don't wait for compromise before acting. Take the lead and the consensus will follow.
2. "Implement reform in quantum leaps, otherwise interest groups will stop you." Change creates costs and benefits in that order. Costs come first and proceeding slowly creates resistance before the benefits are experienced.
3. "Don't underestimate the ability of people to adjust." People will underestimate their own ability to adapt and must be challenged to adapt. Once farm subsidies were dropped, farmers joined in demanding that other subsidies be removed.
4. Credibility is everything and you must be consistent to be credible." The public's respect depends on whether you believe in what you are doing.

The Republicans, even Newt, seem to be violating all four principles and are losing. Only truth exists. Fallacies describe non-existence and nonexistence cannot deal with reality.

Keith Edwards

CAMPAIGN IDEAS

In James Hudler's article on page one of this issue, James recommends that we set up county contacts for literature distribution during the election campaign.

Thinking along the same lines, I had an idea for doing this same thing. During the last two campaigns, I got a lot of calls on our 800-number from people wanting yard signs, bumper stickers, etc. We cannot ask perfect strangers to come to a private home to pick them up. They don't know us and the way things are today, who can blame them, especially women.

However, many libertarians are self-employed or work for libertarian sympathizers and we should be able to use those business locations for literature distribution. So, I volunteered the office where I work as a Southern Macomb County literature distribution point. Jon Coon offered his two headquarters in Ferndale and downriver. Jo Ann Taylor promptly offered her place of work in the south of Ann Arbor.

We are going to need such locations in every city we operate in. Every county, if possible. COUNTY CHAIRS, PLEASE NOTE!

If you work in, or own, such a business office, please contact James Hudler at (313) 475-9792 and volunteer your location as a literature distribution point. Callers to our 800-number will be directed to your location and can contact you for an appointment.

Keith Edwards



Check out the *LPM*
on the *World Wide Web*

<http://www.coast.net/~lpm/>

Libertarian Party Membership Application

Select One:

_____ \$35 Tri-level Membership - National, Michigan and County (save \$15)
County _____

DON'T DELAY

_____ \$25 Bi-level Membership - National, Michigan (save \$15)

JOIN TODAY

_____ \$15 Michigan Member Only

_____ \$15 Subscriber Only, **Michigan Libertarian** newsletter

\$ _____ Additional donation for operating fund (dues cover less than one-half of the operating budget)

_____ I want to join the Pledge Program. Please send me the registration material.

Note: All memberships include the LPM newsletter. National memberships include a subscription to Libertarian Party News.

GOVERNMENT MANDATED NOTICES: The United States Postal Service requires that we notify you that the cost of newsletter subscriptions (\$25 national, \$15 Michigan) are included in your membership due. The Internal Revenue Service requires that we print "contributions are not tax-deductible".

_____ Check Enclosed - Make checks payable: Libertarian Party of Michigan

Send to:

Please Print!

Libertarian Party of Michigan
11700 Merriman Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____ Fax _____

Applications for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

This statement does not preclude self-defense or resistance to tyranny.

Signature _____



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN
11700 Merriman Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150

**FORWARD &
ADDRESS CORRECTION**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 346
Troy, MI